

Bridge Park developers have no 'principles'

Keep community advisory board out of the loop as they ignore groundwork for park

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Ask many of the Brooklynites who for 20 years led the charge to create a park along the

DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill waterfronts what they think of the new plans for Brooklyn Bridge Park, and if nothing else, they'll concede on one point — 13 is an unlucky number.

The so-called "Guiding Principles" were adopted among community members back in 1992 when the idea of banding together

to claim the heretofore inaccessible waterfront for the public seemed like a viable way to prevent its over-commercialization which was threatened, first by the development of housing and then by warnings

that big box stores would come. Drafted by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition and signed by elected officials including then-Borough President Howard Golden and local members of the state Senate, Assembly and City Council, the document was enough to bring commitments from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Gov. Mario Cuomo.

The 13 principles also paved the way for the 2000 Illustrative Master

Plan, which led Gov. George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2002 committing \$150 million of city and state funds. See **BRIDGE PARK** on page 5

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Smokin' on Broadway

Actors Adam Arkin and Ari Graynor star in Broadway's "Brooklyn Boy," written by Sheepshead Bay native Donald Margulies. The play is now in previews and opens on Feb. 3, joining "Brooklyn: The Musical" on the Great White Way. Go Brooklyn interviews Margulies on page 6.

IKEA DEMOLITION ON HOLD

Asbestos halts destruction of Civil War-era buildings

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

City officials this week ordered contractors for Ikea to stop the demolition of a Civil War-era building in Red Hook after inspectors found it contained higher levels of asbestos than the Swedish home furnishings giant had reported.

Following up on a complaint from a community group, the Department of Environmental Protection sent an agent out to investigate the site, on Beard Street near Osego Street, on Jan. 6, but was unable to gain access to the former New York Shipping Co. building.

This week, they arrived at the site again, and successfully examined debris from the demolition on Building 3, where dismantling had already be-

gun, and an inspector determined the materials constituted "a risk to public health."

The agency ordered that all work stop on Jan. 12.

"We were able to determine the debris was various parts of the roofing tiles, the pieces of which were still mixed in with other types of debris," explained Ian Michaels, a DEP spokesman.

He said the agency had not yet determined what, if any, penalties would be assessed against the property owner, which he identified as Ikea, or the demolition company, Breitbach.

"We instructed them to hire a licensed asbestos construction contractor, and file with us a scope of work for how they were going to clean it up," explained Michaels.

The tip-off came when a resident called 311 to advise the DEP that a study conducted by a firm Ikea hired in 2002 for an addition to their East New York store found that the entire roof of the building was made of ACM, or "asbestos containing material." The study said it was not structurally sound, and that ACM debris was littered throughout.

This information contradicted the forms submitted to the Department of Buildings in November, which identified the only asbestos as being contained in the window caulking. The Buildings Department had passed the information to the DEP.

Neither Ikea nor its public relations firm, Yoswein New York, returned calls for comment.

Ikea, which last summer gained

city approval to build a \$70 million, 346,000-square-foot store on the 22-acre former shipyard, was already facing heat from the Red Hook Art Society, which last year, along with the Municipal Art Society, last week accused the company of haphazardly destroying buildings that may have historical value.

The buildings, which nearly fill the block between Dwight and Osego streets, were demolished, charged residents, as well as Rep. Nydia Velazquez, the Municipal Art Society and the Army Corps of Engineers, who have all asked Ikea to stop the work until a determination is made of the historic significance of the buildings.

Ikea, which plans to open in 2007 and use that site as a parking lot, said the building was in imminent danger

See **IKEA** on page 2

DISORDER ON COURT

Arrest made after phone service KO'd by construction

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

More than 200 residents of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown were left without telephone service Friday and Saturday after a construction crew working on the nearly completed Court House Apartment building knocked out a Verizon relay box.

DUMBO-based Three Trees Management-owned by David and Joel Walentas, is building the 321-unit mixed-income high-rise, which will also include a YMCA and ground-floor retail, on Court Street between Atlantic Avenue and State Street. A 700-space, underground parking garage has been in operation at the site since September.

Around 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 7, construction workers excavating the concrete sidewalk along Court Street dug up and removed the 4-foot-tall, green, metal box that serves as a junction for telephone customers, said Verizon spokesman Charles Frittati, called by

Charles Frittati, 43, the project manager for DUMBO-based 30 Main Construction Company — which is owned by the Walentases — was arrested on charges of criminal tampering with communications equipment after Verizon technicians, alerted by more than 500 calls from customers who complained their telephone service was out, arrived at the construction site and discovered the junction box missing.

"When we got there, there was no box at all," said Verizon spokesman John Bonomo. He said the pedestal — 8 feet long and 4 feet tall — had been sturdy bolted onto the concrete.

"The contractor from [30 Main] told us it had been hit by a truck, and subsequently they took it away for us," Bonomo said.

"Sometimes around the holidays they'd tell us that a pedestal box that they had in front of that location needed to be moved off the sidewalk," said Bonomo.

During the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve, he said, someone from a construction company had requested — in "fairly technical terms" — that the box be moved.

One week later, Bonomo, "who had started the physical work of laying the cables to go to a new connection box," when he saw the progress when the lines were sharply ripped out by 30 Main Construction workers.

"Based on the prior conversation we had had back at the holiday's end, and the fact that the service was technically vandalized ... we take that very seriously," Bonomo said.

Verizon called police at the 84th Precinct, who arrested Frittati at the site.

A spokesman in the Brooklyn district

See **COURT DISORDER** on page 5



Work crews at the Court House apartment complex on the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue (above) knocked out phone service for more than 200 Verizon customers on Friday when they excavated a junction box on Court Street. Flier (below) explains the interruption.



Slope civics rip drive-thru

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The Park Slope Civic Council voted unanimously this week to endorse a new neighborhood group's petition against plans for a drive-through bank on Fifth Avenue.

As Community Bank's representative, which is slated to open in a public consultation period — during which they hear comments by residents near First Street about their design — an upward proposal was submitted from a group calling itself Park Slope Neighbors.

Over the past few weeks, the

Neighbors group has drawn attention to the bank's as-of-right development plans and collected the signatures of 1,100 informed Slopers on a petition they presented to the civic council on Jan. 6.

Aaron Naparstek, the founder and president of Park Slope Neighbors, explained that the petitioners' main goal is to force Community Bank to comply with three points: 1) Not build their planned three-lane drive-through on pedestrian-heavy Fifth Avenue, and have a street-front bank instead; 2) Not erect a "big, glowing 'drive-by'

See **DRIVE-THRU** on page 2

Atlantic lights called 'ugly'

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

As the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation continues fundraising for the completion of its "Lighting the Boulevard" project, some merchants just aren't seeing the light.

"The fixtures look like [a] big眼睛 [big eyes] sign instead of a 'warm entrance,'" said Elissa Jane Mastel, owner of the Urban Monster children's clothing store at 396 Atlantic Ave. near Bond Street. Though her store doesn't have the lighting, she's next door to two

installations and said the only thing noticeable is that "it's really ugly."

The storefront-lighting pilot project was launched Nov. 5, with the installation of 13 light-emitting diode (LED) lamps above select store entrances in Boerum Hill. They were funded in large part by Community Bank, which gave \$50,000, which designed the lights, with the intent of being something "the merchants could subscribe to," according to the lighting designer, Leni Schwendener.

See **LIGHTS** on page 4



Reverend to reverend

The Rev. Herbert Daughtry, of the House of the Lord church in Boerum Hill, is congratulated by the Rev. Jesse Jackson at a tribute to Daughtry on Jan. 8 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Jackson is flanked by Councilman Charles Barron, entertainer Ruby Dee and Daughtry's wife, Dr. Karen Smith Daughtry.

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See **LIGHTS** on page 4

Gunpoint muggers hit Heights

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Two muggers ripped off a man at gunpoint in Brooklyn Heights on Jan. 7 at 9:50 pm.

As the victim, 29, was nearing the corner of Henry and Montague streets, a woman, a witness, told police that he was approached by one man described as black, 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds, who flashed a small, square silver handgun.

"Take out your cash and give me what's in your pocket," the other man, described as white, 5-foot-6 and about 150 pounds, displayed a sharp metal object, and flashed it toward him.

With the victim complied, both men fled in an unknown direction with his property, which he reported to police as \$235 in cash, and a personal checkbook.

A police caravans turned up no results.

Robs children

A man kidnapped a young boy and his little sister while they were walking home from school on Jan. 3 in Carroll Gardens.

Approaching the kids at 4:40 pm, the man, described as white, 5'5" and 180 pounds, a short, purple coat, asked a 12-year-old boy if he could borrow his cellular phone.

When the boy wouldn't let him use it, the thief pushed him to the ground and reached into his right jacket pocket,

POLICE BLOTTER

grabbing the phone.

The suspect fled on foot with the phone, northbound on Smith Street. The children reported no injuries.

Drunk, disorderly

A disorderly drinker at a bar on Smith Street in Carroll Gardens, was arrested Jan. 5 after throwing a candlestick at a bartender.

The bartender said an argument ensued around 1:50 am at the bar between Dean and Bergen streets. One of her female customers, she told police, escalated the fight by picking up a nearby candleholder. The woman poked it at the victim, smacking her in the head.

Witnesses called police, who arrested a 21-year-old suspect.

Nab scammer

A woman trying to deposit a check cashed out for \$27,000 at a bank on Smith Street, on the corner of Montague and Court streets was nabbed after an alert banker noticed discrepancies on the account.

Police Officer Richard H. of the 84th Precinct arrested the woman, 31, on Jan. 4 at 12:30 pm at the bank.

OME site robbed

Burglars pulled off a heist

on the construction site for the new Office of Emergency Management in Downtown Brooklyn, taking various electronic and carpentry equipment on Jan. 3. A worker discovered the theft at 2:30 pm that day.

The worker who discovered the burglary from site at the corner of Cadman Plaza East and Red Cross Place, reported to police that when he left the site at 6 am, he'd seen it and everything was in place.

But during those passing daytime hours, astute burglars stole his wallet, a cellular phone, a headset, a designer a design, a monitor, an amplifier, a power supply, a pants, and a shirt, a coat, various locks, CDs, his driver's license, credit cards and Social Security card, he told police.

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pulling off a heist.

The neighbor chased down the burglar and demanded that the stolen item, a Nintendo Gamecube, be returned. The burglar handed back the lawyer before making his escape.

The neighbor gave a description of the burglar to police.

'King' held up

Two robbers held up employees at a Burger King on the Fulton Mall at gunpoint on Jan. 4, and made off with \$3,500 in cash.

The manager and two employees were in the midst of closing the restaurant, at 10:15 pm, when two men carrying guns entered the store from the rear exit, which opened Willoughby Street.

One man snatched a silver revolver, while the other had a black handgun.

"Open the safe," ordered the first thug, and the manager forfeited the cash.

A soon as they were done, the men fled the location.

Another employee at the site observed the robbers running eastbound on Willoughby Street towards the Borough Hall subway station.

Purse sniped

Burglars clandestinely slipped into a clothing store on Hill Street off Clinton Street, and snatched \$588 of an employee's property when she was in the back room.

The victim, 22, reported that just around 10:30 pm, someone entered the office and removed her belongings from a shelf on her desk when she had ducked back out of site briefly.

The woman's roommate, 28, who was in the office at the time, said she hadn't noticed the theft, but described a person who entered the offices at that time to police.

The victim reported her purse stolen, along with her New York State driver's license, a Coach purse, cash and keys to her car, not to mention several credit cards, one of which was used almost immediately to purchase an \$80 MetroCard.

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Special needs kids

Q: One of my three children has a learning disability and behavioral issues, and needs extra help with homework. Another child has special needs and I have to make therapeutic appointments as well as doing daily therapy ourselves. We often feel guilty that the middle child feels left out.

As give away the guilt and grab onto a few minutes of time alone with your middle child.

"Spent quality time with him to help him feel good about himself. He has a learning disability and has grown some of whom have cerebral palsy. 'If you deny him, he will wind up feeling less important than his siblings.'

Don't worry, advises a mid-sister in Atlanta whose siblings have special needs. "I grew up the normal child because all the other kids were different and I was the one that my two siblings caused," she says, adding that she understood early on that her siblings needed extra care and attention. "Please don't feel guilty. You have to take the cards that fate has dealt you and play the game to the best of your ability. You can do no more."

Yours is a logical concern. It need not be elaborate. Call Diane Meyer, director of the Sibling Support Project, a national effort to address the concerns of brothers and sisters of people with disabilities.

"I would encourage this mom to attempt to carve time out of her busy schedule to spend one on one with her typically developing child," says Meyer. "It need not be anything fancy — a trip to a local hamburger joint or window shopping."

Time alone with your child opens the door for conversation, and lets him know his mother cares about him as an individual. View From the Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs" (Woodbine House, 1997).

"Of course, I recommend this sort of time, but I suggest that it's difficult for moms with these sorts of challenges to actually do," he says. "However, I've met moms who have shared with me some creative solutions."

One mother's solution may or may not work for your family: playing hooky. "Every mom or so, I took my daughter out of school and taught her for a drive, go out to lunch, go for a hike; get our nails done; shop. But whatever we do, we talk and we talk. Whatever school she's in, she's going to have that day more than compensated by the relationship maintenance we have during that time."

Another stress-buster for kids is connecting with their peers, says Meyer, who is based in Seattle, Wash. The basis of his forthcoming book, "The Bibing Slum Book" (Woodbine House, 2004), is a gathering of 80 teenagers who talked about what it's like to have a brother or sister with special needs.

That kind of candid conversation in a relaxed environment makes kids feel they're not alone, says Leslie Vasquez, a

Parent-to-Parent
By Betsy Flagger

counselor who directs sibling workshops.

Can you help?

"My 7-year-old daughter's teachers and principals say she's not the only one at school who has special needs. When we started school three years ago, We're seeing extreme highs and lows and an inability to focus."

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D'town perfect place for Brooklyn Wal-Mart

LETTERS

To the editor:

I'm no fan of Wal-Mart. I'm probably the only traffic engineer helping to build a Wal-Mart off the giant of category killers. But I have to disagree with those usual champions of megastores — Economic Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce who are righteously saying downtown Brooklyn is no place for Wal-Mart to be.

They're dead wrong. Wal-Mart, downtown is precisely the place for it. And Wal-Mart is probably savvy enough to just wait what one may say. Said: "We're not going to take advantage of downtown Brooklyn's assets to develop a new form for it last urban frontier."

The truth is, Wal-Mart is smart enough to know in an area where abundant cost-conscious customers don't own cars, it makes sense to change a model.

Why should the Wal-Mart in Brooklyn be going to a remote site [Red Hook], difficult to reach even by auto, when downtown Brooklyn offers a model of planned floor plans they need — a million walk-in weekday customers and night and weekend parking capacity that taxavers are paying for?

The recently released plan for the Brooklyn Bridge Park is a major milestone for those of us who for nearly two decades have been working for a major park, along with designer's spectacular waterfront. Our park-starved borough will soon have nearly 80 acres of open space, thanks to eminent domain purchases, by the city and by escalating rents.

So, why can't Wal-Mart not concern itself with traffic — they were concerned about traffic — they were con-

fident throughout the rezoning that 100,000 more cars and trucks a day would be handled by the park.

Wal-Mart will wake up to the realities to the genes they let out of the bottles and recognize that it will hold, innovative measures, like bridge tolls, and billions of transit riders from Brooklyn to success.

Brian Katcham, P.E., Cobble Hill

Fix theater

To the editor:

Regarding your report on the Slope Pavilion being sold to digital movie chain, Jan. 8:

The movie theater, Web site shows the symbol for "handicapped" for this theater, yet it is NOT. I sincerely hope that the new owner will install elevators that access to the upper levels will be available for people with disabilities.

Marilyn Souders, Park Slope

Need houses to grow park

To the editor:

The recently released plan for the Brooklyn Bridge Park is a major milestone for those of us who for nearly two decades have been working for a major park, along with designer's spectacular waterfront. Our park-starved borough will soon have nearly 80 acres of open space, thanks to eminent domain purchases, by the city and by escalating rents.

Community vision has been the creative force behind Brooklyn Bridge Park. Public planning has been a success, meetings, public commentary is a vast array of other processes have led

to the current design scheme, which brings us significantly closer to making the Park a reality.

A myriad of detailed design documents will be available about the Park, and the public will continue to influence the park's evolution and development.

We have always known that Brooklyn Bridge Park must be financially self-sustaining. Without this principle, we would never have gotten the public community involved in the park.

Now, after nearly six months of work by the Brooklyn Bridge Development Corporation, we have a thorough analysis of the park's operations and management costs.

Of all the options to cover these costs, housing is the optimal choice, not only because it has the highest potential for significant revenue while taking up only a relatively small footprint, but because it brings life, activity, security and advocacy to the park. Far more than a well-planned housing brings a built-in constituency to public space and enhances the overall park experience. Waterfront parks around the world have had remarkable benefits by within the park boundaries.

By transforming abandoned, unused property into a premiere residential and office complex, the park will be a tremendous urban oasis and a legacy for generations. Five acres of commercial space is a decidedly small price to pay for this rare opportunity. We invite the community to support the effort to make Brooklyn Bridge Park happen now.

Maryann Koval & H. Claude Shostal, co-executive directors, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

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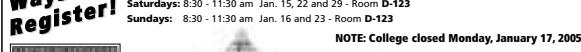
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NOTE: College closed Monday, January 17, 2005



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 15, 2005

The native son

Playwright finds inspiration for 'Brooklyn Boy' in his roots

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

Donald Margulies may have a Pulitzer Prize under his belt, a teaching job at Yale University, a family and a home in Connecticut, but the 50-year-old Jewish playwright insists he will always be a Brooklyn boy.

"I firmly believe that our childhoods are inescapable," the Sheepshead Bay native and Brooklyn public school graduate told GO Brooklyn. "Wherever we're from, it's something that lives with us always, no matter how far we go from that birthplace. The older I get, the more I believe that's true. It's indelible. It presents itself in all kinds of ways in our everyday lives. You just feel little bursts of the past and that is something that has always interested me as a writer — how the past and the present are very often concurrent."

Then, as if to reinforce the point, a child version of me, commenting on the action of my life," he added. "I don't think that it's something that ever goes away."

Best-known for his acclaimed stage dramas "Dinner with Friends" and "Sight Unseen," Margulies says his latest work, aptly titled "Brooklyn Boy," is his most personal to date, emphasizing that like all of his plays, it draws loosely on experiences he has had or people he has met, but warning that its protagonist should not be seen as a portrait of himself as an artist.

"I think an analytical view of my plays is probably the best way to describe how my plays are written," explains Margulies. "I think any writer who writes autobiographically is not truly writing about anything that happens to him or her. What a writer does, is take life experience and turn it into something else. Although my protagonists in certain works may be contemporaries of mine and I would have known them if they actually existed, they are not representative of me."

Directed by Daniel Sullivan and starring Adam Arkin, Polly Draper, Alan Alda, Arvo Ganes, Barbara Mandrell, Michael Lerner and Allan Miller, "Brooklyn Boy" is about a writer (Arkin) who finally hits the big time



part of a natural progression of my work," says Margulies. "It seems to encapsulate so many themes that have interested me along the way. I think of words and it seems that those themes just never go away. I think that's probably true of any writer whose work you look at over a period of time. You

after years of struggling, then finds himself pondering how success changes people and how where they come up affects who they become.

"Brooklyn Boy" seems to those who have seen it and have talked to me about it — like me — part of a natural progression of my work,"

says recurring themes. "In 'Brooklyn Boy,' I deal with issues of the artist in society and public versus private identity, whether it is religious or cultural or creative identity. I think all of these themes converge in this play, but I'm looking at it from a distinctly middle-aged vantage point, which is something I could never do before."

The themes in Margulies' latest work seem to be resonating with a larger audience than Brooklynites alone.

"It's been very interesting and gratifying to see this play succeed in front of Orange County, Calif., audiences," says the man

who moved to Coney Island as a boy, then went on to graduate from SUNY Purchase. "It's a hit in Paris right now. In French. And it's called 'Brooklyn Boy.' It's just delightful. My wife and I saw it at the premiere in Paris and it was just exhilarating to see the French laugh at all the same places where I did. I was laughing and yet it is such a specific New York story, in a sense, but the more universal the work tends to be."

Despite his enormous success in theater both here and abroad, Margulies confesses he still has dreams to realize. For one, he

See BOY on page 7

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THEATER

The Manhattan Theatre Club's production of "Brooklyn Boy" is now in preview performances at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre (West 47th St. Manhattan). "Brooklyn Boy" officially opens on Feb. 3. For more information, visit www.manhattantheatreclub.com or call (212) 239-4200.

See BOY on page 7

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EVENT



King tributes

Two Brooklyn institutions, the Academy of Music and the Botanic Garden, will host celebrations in honor of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 17.

At 10:30 a.m. at the BAM Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene), Tap Roots artist Melba Moore will sing "Lift Every Voice," and Broadway star Lilius White will perform with the Brooklyn Ecumenical Choir of Bedford-Stuyvesant. A host of elected officials are scheduled to speak.

Following the free main-stage event, free screenings of "The Untold Story of Emmett Till," by Fort Greene director Ken Beauchamp, will be held in the BAM Rose Cinemas. Beauchamp's documentary delves into the trial and acquittal of the people who mutilated and killed Till (pictured at top with his mother), a 14-year-old black boy accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi in 1955.

Seats to both the tribute and film screenings are available on a first-come, first-seated basis. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bam.org.

At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (100 Palm House Rd., in Brooklyn's Prospect Park) performances of spirituals by the Great Day Chorale, By All Means Save Some Youth Theater Ensemble and the Great Day Children's Chorus will take place at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. At 1 p.m., a tour highlighting the plants of Africa will take place in the Steinhardt Conservatory. For more information, call (718) 623-7200 or visit the Web site at www.bbg.org.

NIGHTLIFE



Ice capades

Prospect Park-lovers in their 20s and 30s are invited to skate after hours at William Rink on Jan. 21 for "Skating Under the Stars," the Prospect Park Alliance Junior Committee's annual fundraiser.

Beginning at 9:30 p.m., expect mitters full of spiked hot chocolate and entertainment provided by Southpaw's DJs. Costumes by "Vogue" Fashion Editor Sally Saks and Entertainment designer of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his representative on the Prospect Park Alliance's Board of Directors, the event is a benefit for the alliance's programs.

William Rink is located off Ocean Avenue, between Lincoln Road and Parkside Avenue. Tickets for the event, which include admission, skate rental, snacks and drinks, are \$100. \$50 of the \$100 goes to Prospect Park Alliance's youth programs. To purchase tickets and for more information, call (718) 965-9988. Tickets are also available at the door. — Lisa J. Curtis

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Heavy hitter

Tempo restaurant opens with dishes that pack a punch

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

While many mourned the passing of 16-year-old neighborhood stalwart Cucina restaurant in Park Slope, many more were pleased to discover that chef Michael Fiore has remained at the location to start anew.

Fiore and two partners opened Tempo restaurant in the same location in September and while Cucina's byline is gone, the go-ahead chef's special occasion restaurant, Tempo's team is determined to make the eatery a place that Brooklynites will want to return to again and again — in the same week.

Although Tempo still inhabits the large space on Fifth Avenue, the interior renovations — earthy walls, polished wooden floors, tables and chairs — make for a sophisticated yet comfortable bar and two dining rooms.

"The lady needed a new dress," as Robert Amato, co-owner Michael Elliott said, paraphrasing partner Robert Amato.

According to Elliott, they "kept the bones" of the restaurant but her attire is all new, as is the menu. While the management has achieved an elegant effect, Elliott pointed out that the place is as approachable, a casual neighborhood restaurant.

Tempo's sexy banquets — and flattering lighting! — enhance a romantic dinner for two, but there's plenty of elbowroom for a Sunday dinner with the whole clan.

DINING

Tempo Restaurant & Wine Bar is located at 256 Fifth Avenue, at Carroll Street in Park Slope. Open Monday through Sundays, in addition to a regular menu, a whole truffle-roasted chicken is served on Sunday evenings. Tempo is open Tuesdays through Sundays for dinner. Closed Mondays. Tempopark.com. Reservations: 718.636-2020. For reservations and more information, call (718) 636-2020.

A dozen wines are available by the "quartino" — a third of a bottle, or 250 ml — which is enough to enjoy with a single course. The bottle menu is many. Among them, diners have the option of ordering a dinner with each course; therefore, without the pressure of committing to an entire bottle, they might take the opportunity to experiment with different wines.

Tempo also offers tasty seasonal cocktails. The apple martini, instituted in the fall, is made from slivers of fresh New York apples steeped in vodka. It had my dining partner so smitten he attempted his own at home, but sadly, not with Tempo's results — an outstanding tango

of tart and sweet ingredients. Hot buttered rum has been added for the winter. Big hunks of artisanal bread, amber bowls of sea salt and olive oil hinted at the hearty, generous meal to come.

Fiore's black pasta — like phyllo — is served with a side of goat cheese and a smear of Moroccan-inspired barbecue sauce (flavored with cinnamon and sugar) made us glad there was a chill in the air. We battled for the last flakes of this cousin of the eggroll.

Even more unusual and equally delectable is the "cavatelli" — a traditional standby, a cast iron pot of mussels. At Tempo, the fresh, steamed mussels "cavatelli" are flavored with white wine, garlic — and most surprising — cubes of scrumptious, hearty chorizo sausage that garnished the light mussels.

Even the salad is made with the Tuscan grain, farro — was made more substantial with a generous dose of "cioccolatino," a southern Italian cheese made from cow's milk.

For main courses, diners can choose from a variety of many unique made-pasta sandwiches and traditional meat and fish entries. The bucatini with Sicilian pistachio nut pesto is a terrific impersonation of a cream-based pasta dish — without the cream. Fiore explained that he mixes natural rich oils with pasta water to achieve the luscious

sauce, while the nuts add crunch to the combination of chunky spaghetti-like pasta and string beans ("fagiolini"). A little of this heavy dish goes a long way.

The pappardelle with ragout of wild boar is the Italian version of beef stew.

The red wine stew, enhanced with slivers of pecorino romano and basil, is a complex masterpiece.

Fiore's "roasted whole orata" fish is served, as the name implies, in its entirety, on a platter surrounded by a pretty assortment of yellow and red cherry tomatoes, basil, and a light vinaigrette.

After de-boning and quickly returned for devouring. Flavored with white wine, Stellina Cadente Meyer lemon olive oil, and the robust tomatoes, this dish inspired my New Year's resolution to try more of Fiore's fish.

His main, pan-roasted duck breast with sour cherries is served with a satin

parsnip purée and a contemporary

flourish of crunchy strips of parsnip;

the memory of this dish still makes me

salivate.

Order a side of Fiore's chick

pan to absorb every last bite of his

sauces.

To end the meal, there is a selection

of whole leaf teas from which to

choose, as well as robust coffees and

housemade sorbets and gelatos.

Another

eyebrow raiser, this time on the

dessert list, is the "Tiramisu" and not

the "Tiramisu."

A Brooklyn

on this Mediterranean menu

might be tempting, but it's

just as welcome a visitor. Like a

pecan pie without the

pecans, it's served with crème

frangipane and warm toffee sauce.

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Lucky 7

'Seven Brides' director promises high-flying dance at Brooklyn Center

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Scenplay, and won for Best

A part of the continuing celebration of its 50th anniversary, Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts opens its "Broadway Series" on Sunday, Jan. 30, with "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," which was

first a 1954 MGM movie musical, has been called a magical blend of the right story, a great score and dazzling choreography (by Michael Kidd). It starred Jane Powell, Howard Keel, Jeff Richards and Ross Tandy (who became a cult figure when he played Riff in *Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins' West Side Story*). The musical received Academy Award nominations for Best Picture and Best

Score. In 1982, Al Kasha and David Landay adapted the musical for stage and added several new songs by Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn ("Glad That You Were Born," "Bless Your Beautiful Hide," "Goin' Courting" and "Wonderful, Wonderful Day") to the original score by

Windwood Theatricals' production of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" will be presented on Jan. 30, at 2 pm, at the Walt Whitman Theater, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call (718) 951-4500.

Gene dePaul and Johnny Mercer. Perhaps due in some part to the great renown of the movie, the Broadway show was not very successful. It closed just three days later.

"It's a very famous movie.

CORRECTION

The article headlined "Beacon" Lights It Up" (GO Brooklyn, Jan. 1) incorrectly identified the composer of "Beacon." Dan Siegler is the composer. We regret the error.

Band of brothers: (Above left) in a scene from Windwood Theatricals' production of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," Alicia L. Albright stars as Milly, surrounded by her six brothers-in-law. (Above) Milly with Charlie Meachling as Adam.

It's a lot to live up to," Paula Sloan, who directed and choreographed the musical for the Windwood Theatricals production company, told GO Brooklyn. She believes the musical's show-stopping dances and comic twists make it entertaining both on screen and on stage. And, of course, the plot is very appealing.

"It's a very charming story," said Sloan. "It has a simple plot. The oldest brother of seven goes out to find a wife for his brothers. The youngest brother doesn't tell her about the others. In the end, she teaches them manners and they all end up finding girls."

As in "The Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," the movie was based, the brothers find their women by kidnapping some ladies from a neighboring town. As it turns out, the ladies are stranded at the ranch when an avalanche prevents the townspeople from rescuing them.

Filled with fun and romance, "Seven Brides" is set in Oregon during the 1850s and Sloan says her company will present it in full period costumes with a portable set consisting mainly of a large broom truck and a piano. And, of course, the plot is more than two dozen performances.

Sloan says audiences should be prepared for some mighty fine dancing, particularly in her favorite scenes, "The Barn Dance" and "The Barn Dance," which she says has "a lot of acrobatics, jumps and flying."

And she predicts a good time for the audience, too. "It's fun to watch. It's one of those shows you can see over and over again."

THEATER

Windwood Theatricals' production of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" will be presented on Jan. 30, at 2 pm, at the Walt Whitman Theater, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call (718) 951-4500.

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"It's a very famous movie.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

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Maureen McGovern

Saturday
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8pm

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Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

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PERFORMANCE

JAZZ Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents Sarah McLawler, jazz pianist and vocalist, in a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. 2 pm. \$15. 7 pm. \$15. 8 pm. \$15. 12 pm. Free.

MUSIC Brooklyn Philharmonic presents "Brooklyn's Hollywood," and honors works by Brooklyn-born composers. Program features music by Copland, Schoenberg, Gershwin, and others. 8 pm. \$20 and \$25. up. 8 pm. Pre-concert talk entitled "Music of the 20th Century." 7 pm. Brooklyn House, 30 Washington Ave. (718) 488-5913.

GALLERY PLAYERS "The Spitfire Grill." 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, 8 pm. \$19. 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

IMPACT THEATER presents Spanish program of "Gaspar y el Librero." 8 pm. \$15. 9 pm. adults and seniors. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 628-3880.

ARTS AT ST. ANN'S "Cynthia Erivo's 'Accidental Nostalgia: On the Pros and Cons of America.'" 8 pm. \$15. 25 St. Bazaar, 10th Ave. (718) 254-7188.

DANCE Brick Theater presents "Ballerina Science Fantasy." 8 pm. (718) 768-7799.

CHILREN JUST DUCKY: Audubon Center celebrates everything duck during January. Kids are invited to learn about ducks and enjoy craft activities. Noon to 4 pm. Enter Prospect Park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, 10th Ave. (718) 223-1236.

FILM Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents "A Bug's Life." 7 pm. Brooklyn House, 30 Washington Ave. (718) 488-5913.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART: **ART** Facts, a stories and art hour for kids, presents "The Art of the Animal." 10 am. Brooklyn House, 30 Washington Ave. (718) 638-5391.

OPEN MIC Liquid Language Poetry. 6:30 pm. Barlow and Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-6227.

MEETING Community Board 7. 6:30 pm. 14th St. and Avenue. (718) 223-1236.

LECTURE NY Transit Museum presents lecture and slide show, "Medals and Tokens of Honor." 1 pm. \$5. 25 St. Bazaar, 10th Ave. (718) 254-7188.

CAFE NIGHTS Brooklyn Exchange. Hosts a talk by God Care About Social Justice. 8 pm. (718) 768-7773.

MULCHFEST: Last chance to recycle your Christmas tree. Clean and recycle trees are collected. Call 311 for park locations.

SUN, JAN 16

PERFORMANCE

RECITAL Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents Alexander Pyayev in a classical piano recital. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza, 30 Washington Ave. (718) 223-4431.

COMEDY Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents comedian Bob Alper. 8 pm. (718) 768-1453. Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand Avenues. (718) 254-4343.

GALLERY PLAYERS "The Spitfire Grill." 3 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, 8 pm. See Sat., Jan. 15.

IMPACT THEATER "Gejon Abandonado." 3 pm. See Sat., Jan. 15.

CHILDREN JUST DUCKY: Learn how to foster creativity for your children at Playgroup. 15-18 months. 10 am. Brooklyn House, 30 Washington Ave. (718) 223-1236.

MEETING Community Board 4. Parks and Recreation Committee. 6:30 pm. 250 14th St. and Avenue. (718) 223-1236.

LECTURE NY Transit Museum presents lecture and slide show, "Medals and Tokens of Honor." 1 pm. (718) 254-7188.

CAFE NIGHTS Brooklyn Exchange. Hosts a talk by God Care About Social Justice. 8 pm. (718) 768-7773.

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SLIDE SHOW Park Slope Civic Council presents "The Art of the Animal." 7 pm. 250 14th St. and Avenue. (718) 223-1236.

MEETING Community Board 4. Parks and Recreation Committee. 6:30 pm. 250 14th St. and Avenue. (718) 223-1236.

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